

A
Dissertation on
Cholera Infantum

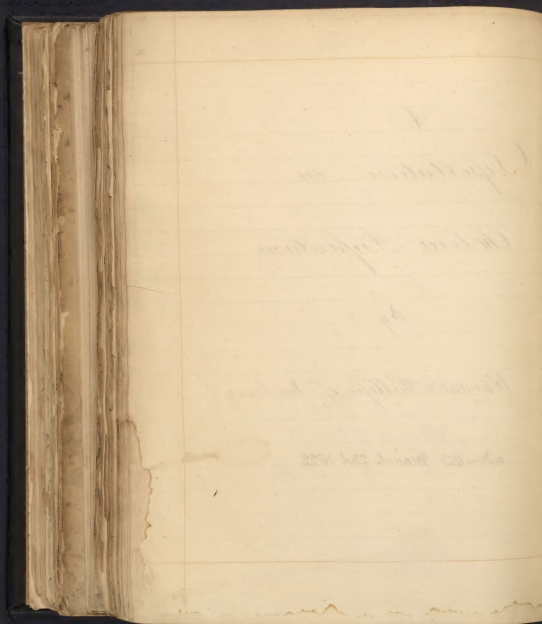
By

Randall Phillips of New Jersey

266 Arch St. at 10th Street

March 7th 1822

admitted March 23d 1822



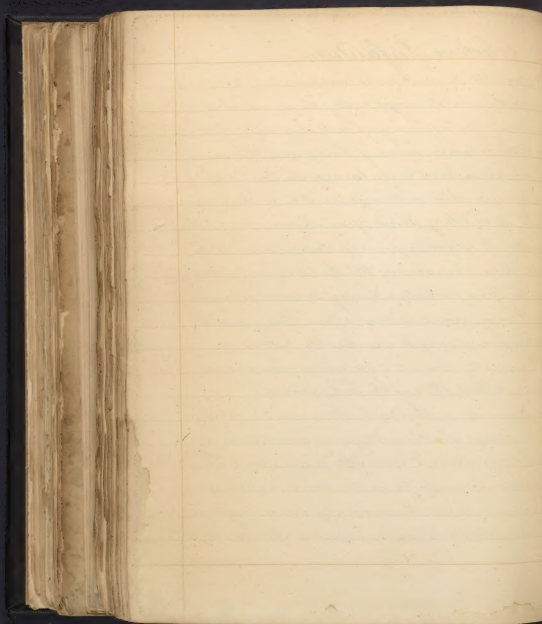
Cholera Infantum

History. This disease becomes most prevalent, & is attended with the greatest danger, during the warm, months of summer, & the beginning of autumn, when it is called by the common name of the disease of the season.

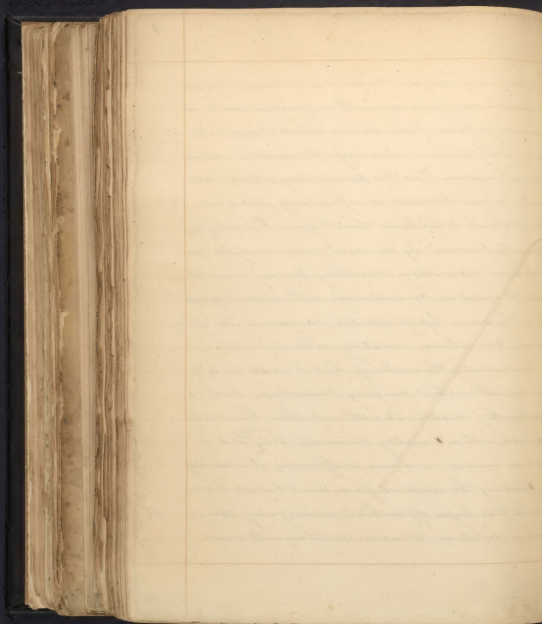
It prevails in most large towns of the United States, & is distinguished in Charleston, S. C. by the name of the April & May disorder from its occurring in those months. It seldom appears in Philadelphia till York until July, & it continues till the latter part of September; the firm premature heat of summer it may occur it may appear earlier, or from their unusual continuance, it may be considerably protracted.

It generally spreads, & assumes a more dangerous aspect, in proportion as the heat increases.

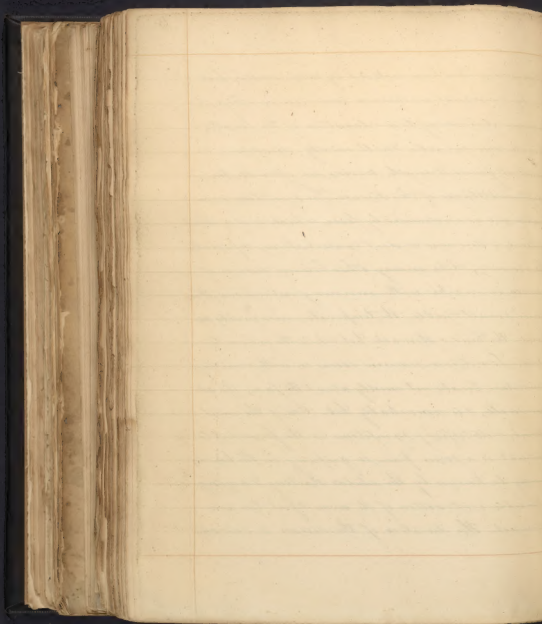
The temperature of the weather has a very great influence over this disease; great vicissitudes of heat & cold, sudden, & long continued rains after a dry state of the atmosphere, generally favour the operation of the exciting cause. — Hence the reason, why in some years, it proves so alarming among children, while in others



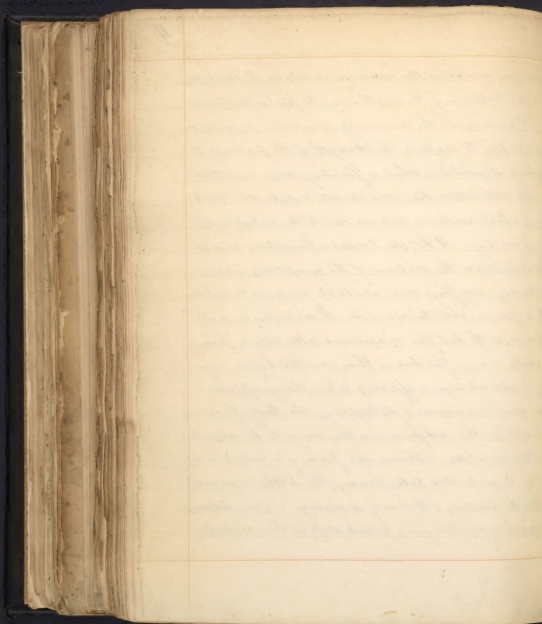
from the mild & uniform temperature of the air, it is comparatively a rare occurrence. It is my intention to describe only one form of this disease, which I have had frequent opportunities of observing. It consists in nausea, vomiting & purging. The this disease may attack children at any age, it occurs more frequently from a few weeks, after birth to the third & fourth year. It is not unfrequently preceded by the usual precursors of the common bilious intermitting, & remitting fevers of warm climates. It comes on, & is continued with evident symptoms of Pyrexia, loss of appetite, occasional fits of nausea, & sometimes vomiting without purging, the more usually the contrary; but it most usually comes on with violent purging & vomiting, which continue together, or alternate with each other. The matter evacuated, is then & is very commonly, but ^{sometimes} thick & tenacious mucus, inodorous, or offensive; it is usually sour & putrid, the natural faces are retained. Sometimes the food passes off without undergoing the process of digestion; tenismus sometimes will occur.



Prolapsus ani has been noticed by some writers, but
 this is by no means a common occurrence; where it
 does occur, it is owing to a relaxation of the levator, &
 sphincter ani muscles, & will mostly disappear as
 the patient gains strength. Worms are often discharged
 in different stages of this disease. The symptoms enu-
 merated are accompanied by fever, which is of a remit-
 ting kind, & discovers evident exacerbations, especially
 in the evening, & like many other bilious diseases of
 the season is marked with morning remissions the
 pulse is small & feeble the temperature is unequally dis-
 turbated, The head, & stomach hot while the extremities
 are cold. Sometimes nausea comes on with vomiting,
 & a moisture breaks out mostly about the face, the ab-
 domen swells, & is remarkably hot. One of the most
 frequent, & distressing symptoms in the formidable
 complaint is a severe pain, or griping in the bowels,
 this may be known by the child starting & crying,
 & by forcible contraction of its arms & feet toward
 the stomach. The duration of the disease is various,



depending much on the manner in which it comes on, the habit & change of the weather; if the first attack comes on with violence, all the alarming symptoms rapidly increase, if left to nature, the strength of the patient is suddenly diminished, when a fainting comes on, attended with cold extremities, cold sweats, & subcutaneous tenderness, which sometimes puts an end to the unhappy sufferer in one day. A hot, dry, & moist atmosphere seldom fails to increase the violence of the symptoms; whereas, a cold day very frequently abates its violence & disposes it to a favourable termination. It continues in some instances, with but few occasional alterations, five or six weeks, & even for two or three months, before any considerable change is effected; when the symptoms grow more numerous & distressing, the body becomes emaciated, the adipose matter seems to be absorbed, the skin wrinkled, & thrown into folds, a constant inclination to go to stool takes place, the little or no matter can be voided, & that is of a watery or green colour, the eyes become languid, & sink deep in their sockets;



The features are contracted, low shot at the ear, the mouth - hands, common - a hand, marked by phlebotomy scarification generally, hands a total dismemberment of the conformation.

Diagnosis. The disease with which it is in tandem may be ascertained, viz. Trichocystitis entering & discharging & affording no relief from warm or the stimulant as a rule. To distinguish it from Hydrocephalus entering it is necessary to remark, that the latter in the latter condition more fully loses its sensibility, the excretion is other than it occurs are not so copious, no association with any trichocystitis & later it is more inconsistent with the elaborate theory, a higher of the eye is much delayed, shattering & presenting much distress with many, & with insupportable pressure by a compression with constitution of the bowels. It is known in its ascending, but not being attended with so much violence, pain & swelling, rather are the fluids more abundant with vision, & *cholera infantum* has been observed with some affection arising from warm in the ascending, casual.



The same observation should it be carefully distinguished from urina, not being discharged in the first attack. The symptoms. But it has been observed that urina is sometimes excreted in the different stages of this disease; which I presume to be owing to the violence of the inflammation suddenly expelling them. In children we observe very different, nor is it preceded by a commotion with that voracious appetite, that disturbed sleep, the sucking & rattling of the nose; & most of the characteristic symptoms of urina will be found wanting.

Prognosis. In most diseases, it appears to be a difficult task, to lay down with any precision, the prognostic symptoms, as patients have recovered under every discouraging circumstance, while others have died when the most favourable prognostics were present; render the impression I feel diffident in attempting to say much under this head. But it is natural to conclude, that when the disease attacks a very delicate habit in a warm dry weather, when the vomiting is excessive, the stomach very unstable, with a weak & quick pulse &



cold extremities, it may express the present, or mean
that life is suspended as by a thread, & that the probabi-
lity is, that a speedy & fatal termination will take
place. And so, on the contrary, when the symptoms are
more mild, & when the vomiting is checked, & the fever &
thirst not so great, a moderate or a mild pulse, we may
encourage them to hope. For it is very probable that
the patient will do well.

Predisposing causes. Predisposition is that state of the
body which renders it susceptible to the operation of an exci-
ting cause. This predisposing state is the same in all be-
ings, viz: general debility. It is being debilitated by
weak organization, a particularly suitable state of the
stomach & bowels arising from natural confirmation,
or a diseased state of the body, as it is after the erad. with
worms; or a continual irritation of the gums, as in ten-
tation, which seems to me to be the most frequent
cause of this complaint; irregularity of diet, either
in quality, or quantity. Phlegmatic menstruation, some-
times takes place, & coloring the white to a red den



current of air, when the pores are open. previous exper-
iment. Erection occurs as delicately as the foodspring
can. It is always attended with an immediate
evacuability, the erection must be stimulant, & are all
such as endow force, which is to be considered as the
primary affection. For the cause which acts upon
erectly in the system, I shall refer to another. That
which acts directly on the stomach & intestines. The
most offensive from quantity is quantity, unless re-
pulsion of complexion. The skin, The use of, double
purges, or to long excretion. or, should not, may be
seen, or by stimulation. The report of the heart
to an entire action is sufficiently established, how
a sudden stoppage of pulsation, or the rejection of
excretion in the skin, act in the same way to produce
shock. In quantum must be considered to be in the
that exists between the surface of the body & the intes-
tine canal.

CIII. I did not conceive it necessary to take
separate views of the different theories, laid down by



different understandings; I shall not at present enter into this
 kind of metaphysics, it may be taken at least to come no farther
 than to show the improvement in medical science which
 I think must be sufficiently evident to every observer. I shall now
 proceed to mention the several accidents to the human state of
 the veins in their progression. One in last effect ought to be, to
 cleanse the stomach & Liver, for this purpose is calculated with
 less success, in male than in female very well, is called the exci-
 tation of the system so, the warm bath in more violent cases is
 to be used; to produce more extensive circulation & to loosen
 may be exhibited which will not excite irritation. When it
 should be treated with the most caution. Then we may give
 lemon water & milk, strong or weak with sugar, or cream, or even
 medicinal, or medicinal & the stomach. I seldom have
 been cured with leucitis in this disease, this then appears to
 be no worse regimen. If the patient is as to look and
 even extremely well, it determines to the surface, cures
 the disease from the bowels. If the patient be otherwise some
 section may be employed; here we are to recollect the
 insidious nature in ven diseases. It is a considerable



course; it tranquillizes the distress of the child & prevents inflammation. After freely evacuating the stomach & intestines by mercurial purges they may be laid aside; but the bowels ought to be kept open. We now give our remedies to allay intestinal irritation, & emulge the liver, promoting biliary discharges & determining to the surface; Gum opii 1 gr. Calom. 2 gr. Symplicae 3 gr. to be divided into 8 or 10 powders, to be given, one every 2 or 3 hours *pro re nata*. This is an excellent remedy in these cases. To restore the liver to a healthy condition should be our chief object; if we effect this, we shall most generally succeed in curing the disease. To determine to the surface & to equalize the temperature, the warm bath, should be resorted to; the effects of this are not lasting, therefore, we use it daily, or twice a day. The bath may be impregnated with brandy, pepper or salt &c. Blisters are indispensable in this complaint, they should be applied to the stomach & extremities, as they sometimes prove serviceable in promoting diaphoresis. The disease now sometimes changes to Diarrhoea; the

remedies are the cathartics or alkaline preparations, or
 speed rhubarb. The diarrhoea is often distressing, &
 causing 10 or 20 stools per diem. Alum in the dose of
 1, 2, or 3 grs with $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$ gr opii, is useful; or stiff fern
 2 grs, Sulphuric acid 10 drops, loaf sugar 1 dr, aqua font
 1 oz M. ft. Dose a tea-spoon full 3 or 4 times per diem.
 Chalk, with tincture kino has much reputation, as an astring-
 ent, logwood is good, a string decoction dug, or blackberry
 root is recommended by Dr Chapman as preferable to all others.
 Great attention to the diet is requisite; if the child be not
 weaned, the milk of the mother is the best nourishment; but
 if it be, boiled milk, toast water, tapioca arrow root &c.

Dr Chapman recommended pieces of Fat Ham, & salt,
 or smoked fish, in the declining stages. Ripe fruit is also of
 service. But change of air is the best remedy that can be
 administered; without it, a relapse will supervene a re-
 lapse till death arrives. As soon as it breathes the pure
 air of the country a change is almost instantly effected,
 & a restoration is almost sure to take place.

[Faint, illegible handwriting in cursive script, likely a historical document or letter.]